

**Written Testimony of Marta Daniels in Support of HB 6814  
AAC- the Establishment of a Coding System for the Designation of Recyclable  
and Compostable Products, March 9, 2023**

**“Plastics my boy! Plastics!”**

When Walter Brooke, as Mr. McGuire, spoke those words to Dustin Hoffman in his legendary role as young Benjamin Braddock in the 1967 classic film **The Graduate**, audiences did not know just how enduring and dangerous “plastics!” would be to our future, and how deadly to our environment, our health and our lives.

*But 16-year-old Bobby Callagy from Darien, CT does.*

I enthusiastically support **HB 6814**—the environmental bill that Bobby helped bring before the Environmental Committee with my state Rep, Christine Palm. As frustrated as Dustin Hoffman was with Mr. McGuire’s admonition to him about making a future *with “plastics!”* Bobby Callagy did something about his frustration knowing what he knows (and all of us know) about them today. Fifty-six years after that classic film, Bobby and his generation know better than Hoffman’s, and have tried to change our suicidal course. We should join him in that effort.

We – all of us – need this bill to help reverse our deadly course. It would standardize simple messaging on discarded products that will increase recycling responsibly, will reduce toxic waste, and would establish a program to encourage manufacturers to transition to non-plastic packaging. There is no good reason for so many of us adults to waste time (as I have) trying to figure out what should and should not go in the big blue bin!! Simplify and clarify the many confusing symbols, triangles, codes and lines that currently try—and fail—to tell us what to do. How hard can that small change be?? This is a minimal step to take to diminish the impact of plastics on our very fragile environment.

I will look for Bobby Callagy’s sign at all future public environmental actions in CT. He will have earned the right to say on his sign:

**“No Plastics my boy! No Plastics!”**

**Marta Daniels**

**Chester, CT 06412**

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